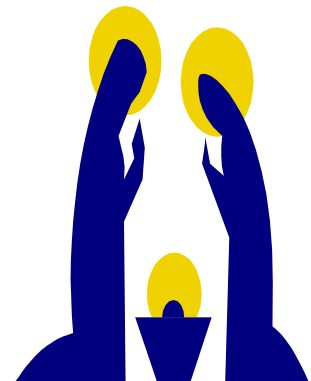


**Remember this Christmas season to keep Jesus in your heart. The real reason we celebrate Christmas!
The birth of this child Jesus Christ! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Happy Holiday!**

First Baptist Church
701 N. Main Street
PO Box 476
Central Square, NY 13036
www.fbs-cs.com
(315) 668-2138

**December
2012
Merry Christmas!**

This is your copy of *The Witness*
We wish God's blessings on:



THE WITNESS

The Monthly Newsletter of the first Baptist Church of Central Square

www.fbc-cs.com

“Our mission as a church is to share and respond to God’s love for each person by welcoming all. Together, we can return God’s love by becoming witnesses and followers of the teachings of Jesus Christ throughout our daily lives. We allow these things to help us become new people in Christ.”

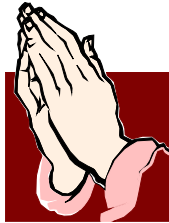
Lynn Bort, Moderator

Lynda Heer, Church Clerk
Cindy Cuny, Church Secretary

Victor Vrooman, Organist
Cindy Cuny, Witness Editor

News and Upcoming Events about our Community of Faith
Notices Concerning Our Affiliated Denomination – The American Baptist Churches in the USA
Information to Help Live a More Fulfilled Life

PRAYER CONCERNS



Please keep these members and friends in your prayer; Bob Abel; Mavis Cooter; Stewart Smith; Phyllis Smith; Delores Olin; Ray Olin; Arlene LeBeau; Helen Webb; our missionaries; our nation; and our denominational and local church leaders.

PRAYERS FOR DECEMBER

Dear God, during this Christmas season remind us to always love everyone, and remain faithful to our family, Friends, and especially to you.

Amen

Board meetings

Christian Ed	Sunday 2 th	11:15
Trustees	Tuesday 11 th	6:00
Deacon's	Tuesday 11 th	6:30
Executive	Tuesday 11 th	8:00

Verse of the Month



Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

(Proverbs 3: 3)

WITNESS ARTICLES

All articles for the **January Witness** are due in the church office by **December 20th**.

Birthdays

For December

Courtney Corsette - 4	Ron Gillette - 6
Alexander Springer - 8	Stephen Springer - 8
Shelly Turner -8	Ken Bird – 10
Heather Bettinger – 12	Pam Edick – 18
Dale Bort -27	

HEALTH TIPS!



Welcome back, our next health tip! Well! You guessed it! Exercise! None of us want to hear this but let's face it. Exercise works for your heart, health, and strength. Some people walk, run, and do aerobics, weight lifting. All of these are great! But, remember just moving is helpful. Try to exercise with friends. This makes it more fun and effective. Older people won't be able to handle some of these activities. That's okay! Just walk to your mail box or park farther away at stores or maybe take stairs instead of elevators. Keep it simple and make it things you can handle. See you next time in the New Year with more great tips!

***Till Next Time ***

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Our annual Christmas Offering has covered a variety of needs in years past. All of us are aware, this year, of the pressing needs for assistance as a result of Hurricane Sandy. Therefore, we are dedicating ½ of that offering to the American Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Truck. The other ½ will be set aside as the start of a fund to update or replace our church organ and handbells. The organ now needs costly repairs and the handbells received damage as a result of a winter ice backup & leak.

Mark Your Calendars



Please mark your calendars for the annual "Eating Pizza and Putting up the Christmas Tree Gathering"! The Date: Friday, December 7 at 5pm-ish.

CRAFT SHOW

December 8th we will have vendors in to sell stuff. We hope everyone will come and check it out! You may find Christmas gifts or something for yourself. The fun starts at 9:00am and ends at 4:00 pm. The church will have chili and baked goods for sale. Please remember to cook and bake a lot for this event! We appreciate your donations! Thank you! Call Lynda Heer at 668-1304 for more information.

FAITH PROPOSAL

A Faith Proposal for 2013 was adopted on Sunday, November 11 and our financial and time participation commitments were presented on Sunday, November 18. It is important that all of us seriously consider our commitments, so, if you were not able to be with us on either of those Sundays, please contact our Financial Secretary, Grace Fuller, regarding your intentions for the New Year. The final budget will be determined based on how we are willing to support our entire ministry.



Christmas Gift Bags & Caroling

Please come join the Diaconate Board as we continue a great First Baptist tradition. On **Saturday, December 15th** we'll be meeting at the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM to assemble the gift bags, and we expect to leave to deliver them, with caroling, at about 1:45 PM. Those we visit greatly enjoy and appreciate these visits and the larger our group, the better we sing, so please join us this day!

The Board of Deacons

Parsonage Update



This monthly update is bringing good news of a lot of improvements to the Parsonage in anticipation of the move-in of our Interim Pastor, Rev. John Tharp and his wife, Nancy. By the time you read this article, the following accomplishments will be complete: New roof; kitchen gutted and new sheetrock, floor, lighting, cabinets and appliances installed; new washer & dryer; hardwood floors refinished; some windows repaired; new bathroom fixtures and shower update; ceilings and walls repainted; several furniture, bedding, dishes, lamps, cooking utensils, supplies, etc. donated; new carpeting on stairs & upstairs bedrooms; some new venetian blinds; electric & plumbing upgrades; new hot water heater; eventual phone & computer capability added. Some of this has been professionally completed, but a great deal of it has been done by dedicated volunteer labor. We're sure everyone will be pleased with final results!